MARVEL

003

KORVAC SAGA™

ABNETT SCHMIDT PETER

SECRET WARS

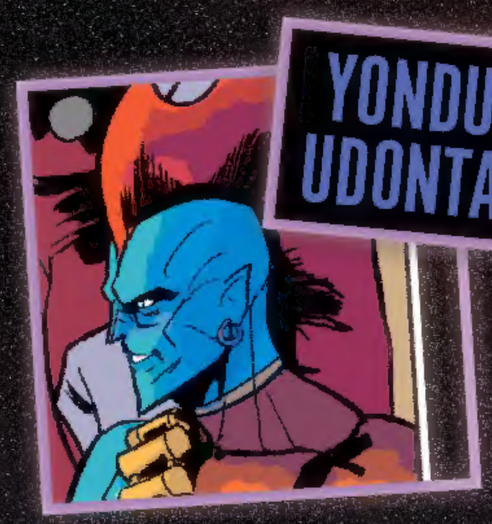
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED...ALL THAT REMAINS IS
BATTLEWORLD!

GUARDIANS - DUTY ROSTER:

STARHAWK
(MANSION SANCTUM OVERWATCH)

MAJOR VICTORY
(MOBILE COMMAND)

CHARLIE-27



YONDU UDONTA

MARTINEX

NICHOLETTE GOLD

GEENA DRAKE
(ASSISTANCE, MANSION SANCTUM OVERWATCH)

THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED FOR DUTY ROTATION AS OF 6:00 AM WEDNESDAY:

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GUARDIANS OVERWATCH CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

"MADNESS" ESCALATION

MORE INCIDENTS OF "MADNESS OUTBREAKS" HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE LAST WEEK. ADVISOR STARHAWK IS CONDUCTING A FULL INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN ORIGIN OF THE INFECTION. DETAILS OF THE ISSUE MUST BE WITHHELD FROM PRESS OUTLETS, BY ORDER OF BARON KORVAC, AND EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO KEEP INFORMATION AWAY FROM BARON WILLIAMS AND HIS ENTOURAGE.

"MADNESS" PRESENTS INITIALLY AS TROUBLED SLEEP PATTERNS AND VIVID DREAMS, FOLLOWED BY STATES OF PARANOIA AND CONFUSION, LEADING TO SUDDEN ESCALATION AND TRANSFORMATION, INCLUDING PHYSICAL TRANSMUTATION, BERSERK RAGE AND FRENZY. IF IDENTIFIED, ANY CASE OR POTENTIAL CASE MUST BE FLAGGED AS AN ALPHA STAR PRIORITY AND THE GUARDIANS MUST BE SUMMONED.

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WELL...

ROUTE OF THE WELCOME PARADE, NEAR 10TH STREET.

...THERE'S NOT A WHISPER OF ENERGETIC RESIDUE, MAJOR VICTORY.

NOTHING TO INDICATE WHAT TRANSMUTED CARINA KORVAC INTO THAT... *MONSTER.*

BIG SURPRISE, CAPTAIN. NO PREVIOUS MANIFESTATIONS HAVE LEFT EVIDENCE *EITHER.*

STARHAWK'S CONDUCTING AN ASTRAL SEARCH--

I KNOW. I ASKED MOONDRAGON TO ASSIST HIM.

REALLY? IS THE WONDER MAN *HAPPY* WITH HIS AVENGERS COLLUDING WITH MY GUARDIANS?

I *MAY* HAVE FORGOTTEN TO MENTION IT TO HIM.

VANCE, I WANT TO HELP, EVEN IF IT HAS TO BE *OFF THE RECORD.*

GUILT'S A TOXIC THING, MAR-VELL. LET IT GO.

A MONSTROSITY WAS ASSAULTING YOUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. YOU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SANCTION--

HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN *FRIENDS,* VANCE?

I DON'T KNOW. YEARS.

AND THE *STORIES,* HUH?

IN THE ULTRON WARS, WE WERE BROTHERS-IN-ARMS.

WE WERE.

THEN THE MIGHTY ***BARON KORVAC*** NEEDED A PRAETORIAN, AND YOU AND YOUR GUARDIANS ANSWERED THE CALL.

HIS ***RIVAL,*** THE ***WONDER MAN*** OF THE HOLY WOOD, REQUIRED A BODYGUARD, AND I TOOK MY AVENGERS INTO ***HIS*** SERVICE.

IT COULD'VE ***EASILY*** BEEN THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

DO NOT CROSS THE LI

SURE. DO YOU HAVE A POINT ASIDE FROM REMINDING ME HOW ***OLD*** I'VE GOTTEN?

JUST THAT ***WE*** GO BACK.

THIS ***ISN'T*** ABOUT GUILT. BARON WILLIAMS IS WORRIED. HE THINKS IF KORVAC DOESN'T FIX THIS PROBLEM FAST, IT'LL DRAW THE ***WRATH*** OF DOOM DOWN ON US ALL.

THEN WE ***ALL*** LOSE.

YOU'D TELL ME IF WILLIAMS WAS PREPARING TO ***STRIKE,*** WOULDN'T YOU?

OF COURSE.

BUT THE WONDER MAN ***WILL*** FIX THINGS IF KORVAC DOESN'T. HE'S ANXIOUS TO SHOW DOOMSTADT THAT HE IS THE MORE ***VALUABLE*** ASSET.

A WAR BETWEEN OUR MASTERS IS THE LAST THING ***EITHER*** OF US WANTS.

LET'S ***TRUST*** EACH OTHER AND PULL TOGETHER TO AVERT ANY DISASTERS.

RIGHT. OR FACE THE REPRISAL OF THE ***THORS*** IF IT ALL GOES TO HELL IN--

--MAR-VELL?

NHH. DID YOU FEEL THAT?

PSYCHIC FEEDBACK.

SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED.

STARHAWK...

...JUST ***DIED.***

THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

WHAT IN THE NAME OF DOOM JUST *HAPPENED?*

ANSWER ME!

STARHAWK? *STAKAR!*

WE D-DON'T KNOW, SIR.

STARHAWK WAS PROJECTING HIS ASTRAL SELF AND--

HIS MIND ENCOUNTERED SOMETHING, BARON KORVAC. AND IT...OBLITERATED HIM.

I FELT THE PSI-SCREAM, MOONDRAGON.

APOLOGIES, MY LORD. I FORGOT YOU ARE *SENSITIVE.*

I CHOOSE NOT TO PARADE MY POWERS THE WAY *YOUR* MASTER DOES.

A *CURIOUS* CHOICE, GIVEN THAT YOU ARE THE MOST *POWERFUL* PSIONIC IN THE KNOWN DOMAINS.

I HAVE MY REASONS. NOW BE QUIET AND LET ME PROBE HIS MIND.

GOD DOOM... HE'S JUST A HUSK! BURNED OUT.

WHAT *ARE* THOSE REASONS, MICHAEL?

NOT NOW, SIMON. YOU'RE NOT *WELCOME* HERE.

A PSYCHIC SCREAM RIPS THROUGH THE BUILDING. ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE LIES *DEAD*...AND IT'S NOT *MY BUSINESS?*

DAMMIT, WILLIAMS! THIS IS AN INTERNAL MATTER OF *MY* DOMAIN!

I BEG TO DIFFER. THIS THREATENS US *ALL* AND--

I THINK BARON KORVAC WAS QUITE SPECIFIC, WONDER MAN.

STEP DOWN, MARTINEX, OR I WILL *STEP YOU* DOWN.

REALLY, WIDOW? WE'RE GOING DOWN *THAT* PATH, ARE WE?

LET'S HOPE SO, CHARLIE.

ENOUGH! IF YOU'RE HERE TO HELP, HELP! IF NOT, GET THE HELL OUT!

DO AS HE SAYS.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU USE YOUR GIFTS, MICHAEL. IN THE ULTRON WARS, YOU WERE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

YOU KNOW WHY HE CAPPED HIS POWERS, SIR?

HIS OATH TO DOOM.

WHEN DOOM NAMED ME BARON, IT WAS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT I CURBED MY POWER USE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY.

MY POWER WAS VAST BUT RAW. INFINITELY GREATER THAN STARHAWK'S, BUT FAR LESS SUBTLE.

TO SECURE DOOM'S CONTINUING TOLERANCE, I RENOUNCED MY ABILITIES.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

FOR THE SAKE OF MY OLD, DEAR FRIEND STAKAR...

...I WILL REIGNITE THEM NOW.

NHH!

THERE.

HE'S *ALIVE!*

HIS CONSCIOUSNESS WILL RETURN IN TIME. STAKAR NEEDS TO REST AND HEAL.

YOU GATHERED HIS ASTRAL RESIDUE. YOU REASSEMBLED HIS *SOUL.*

I'VE... NEVER SEEN *ANYTHING* LIKE THAT.

NOR WILL YOU AGAIN.

MY GIFTS MUST SLEEP.

NO. WITH POWER LIKE *THAT,* YOU COULD END THE THREAT HANGING OVER *BOTH* OUR DOMAINS.

YOU COULD ROOT OUT AND *PURGE* THIS MADNESS.

I CAN'T. SIMON, DON'T ASK ME.

MICHAEL, DOOM WILL *DESTROY* US IF WE DON'T GET OUR HOUSES IN ORDER!

YOU COULD FIND THIS PERNICIOUS MADNESS AND *CRUSH* IT!

SIMON--

FOR DOOM'S SAKE, YOU COULD HAVE *PREVENTED* CARINA'S DEATH!

DO NOT EVEN SPEAK HER NAME!

GET OUT. *NOW.*

STARHAWK! WHAT HAPPENED TO STARHAWK?

MAR-VELL FELT THE PSYCHIC FEEDBACK OF SOMETHING BIG. WE GOT HERE AS QUICKLY AS WE COULD.

THERE WAS AN INCIDENT, CAPTAIN. I HAVE RESTORED ORDER.

STARHAWK IS SAFE.

HOW CAN HE BE ALIVE? I FELT HIS *DESTRUCTION!*

I SAW HIM DISCORPORATE AND SCATTER LIKE STARS!

DID YOU JUST SAY... *STARS?*

CAPTAIN MAR-VELL, WHAT *ARE* STARS? WHAT DOES THE WORD MEAN TO *YOU?*

WHOA, WHOA...

DON'T TURN THIS ON *ME!* *I'M* NOT--

--NGHHG.

HELP HIM. *NOW.*

NO, *CONTAIN* HIM.

CAPTAIN MARVEL IS EXHIBITING *EXTREME* PSIONIC DISTORTION. LIKE THE *OTHERS.*

THE *MADNESS* IS UPON HIM.

EVERYBODY *BACK OFF!*

MAR-VELL... *FIGHT* IT!

H-HELP ME...

...THE *STARS* ARE...THEY USED TO BE SO *BRIGHT...*

--THE STARS MUST BE AVENGED!

UNGOK!

AVENGERS. GUARDIANS.

SUBDUE HIM!

NOW!

THUMOM

MAR-VELL! POWER DOWN! THAT'S AN ORDER!

GNNAAAAGGRRRH!

YOU ARE NO STAR...

...YOU ARE PART OF WHAT IS BROKEN!

GUARDIANS! PRIORITY *ONE!* WEST LAWN! *MOVE* IN!

AVENGERS *ASSEMBLE!*

PROTECT BARON WILLIAMS!

NO ONE HAS SURVIVED EXPOSURE TO THE MADNESS SO FAR! WHAT CAN--

WH-WHERE DID MAR-VELL GO?

THE MADNESS HAS HIM, VANCE. THERE'S NOTHING--

THEY'LL *KILL* HIM!

VANCE, PLEASE--

HE'S MY *FRIEND!* I *WON'T* LET HIM DIE!

HE'S *STRONG!* ALWAYS *HAS* BEEN! HE CAN *FIGHT* THIS!

SO BE IT.

S-STARS... LIKE DUST...BURNED AWAY...

T-THE WORLD IS *W-WRONG.*

IT M-MUST BE *AVENGED.*

IT MUST BE...P-PUT *RIGHT* AGAIN.

CAPTAIN. POWER DOWN AND ACCOMPANY US NOW.

TO *H-HELL* WITH YOU, VISION!

VERBALLY ABUSING SYNTHETIC LIFE-FORMS IS AS FUTILE AS ATTEMPTING **COMBAT** *WITH THEM.*

I HAVE CALCULATED **NINE** *ENERGETIC ALGORITHMS THAT WILL SUFFICIENTLY* **MUZZLE** *YOUR POWER-SPREAD WHILE--*

MUZZLE *THIS,* JOCASTA!

YOU HAVE CHOSEN *UNWISELY.*

UGHNNK!

YOU M-MASSIVELY *OVERESTIMATE* YOUR TECHNICAL SUPERIORITY.

GNNGG!

THAT'S *ENOUGH.*

I SAID--

I *HEARD.*

WHAK

BUT APPARENTLY, DID *NOT* LISTEN.

AGHHHH!

FINISH HIM, HERCULES! BEFORE HE SIGNS A DEATH NOTICE FOR *ALL* OF US!

YOU HEARD WHAT WIDOW SAID, OLYMPIAN.

WHAAAM

WE'RE DAMN WELL GOING TO *SAVE HIS LIFE!*

IT IS SADLY *FAR* TOO LATE FOR SUCH COMPASSION, MAJOR. HE MUST--

GET AWAY FROM HIM!

VISION!

I SAID *NO.*

→SKKT-ZZT!←

MAR-VELL! HOLD *ON!*

FIGHT IT!

VANCE?

VANCE... I SAW IT...

THE STARS. THE *COSMOS* THAT ONCE WAS...

YOU ARE ALL MONSTERS! YOU STAND IN LEAGUE WITH THE CORRUPTOR!

WHAK

GNUUHK!

THOK THOK THOK THOK THOK

DROP!

SMAK

AIIGHHH!

KNNK

PLEASE, CAPTAIN...YOU'RE FORCING US TO HURT YOU...

EEWAARRGHHHH!

A COLD FLAME COMPARED TO THE HEAT OF THE STARS.

YOU ARE *NOTHING.*

UGHHK!

AVENGERS! WE NEED BACK-UP *NOW!*

HOLD HIM, JOCASTA!

CHARLIE, STOP HIM FROM--

AIEGG!

GET OFF ME!

GAAAAH!

UHK!

DESIST, CAPTAIN MARVEL, OR WE WILL *SANCTION* YOU.

OR DIE *TRYING*...

YEAH, 'COZ HE HASN'T ALREADY TAKEN DOWN *EVERY* BIG HITTER IN OUR SQUADS...

YOU ARE LOADED WITH *KILL SHOTS*, NICHOLETTE. I HAVE MY ARROWS. IF NECESSARY, WE CAN--

NO.

I WILL SAVE MY REALM FROM MAR-VELL...AND I WILL SAVE MAR-VELL FROM *HIMSELF.*

THIS IS *MY* DOMAIN. *MY* FIGHT.

DESPITE MY OATH TO DOOM.

GUARDIANS. AVENGERS.

COVER YOUR EYES.

GRAAAAAGHHH!

MEANWHILE...

WE SHOULD BE *OUT* THERE! WE SHOULD--

G-GEENA? MOONDRAGON?

STARHAWK *AWAKENS!*

STAKAR? YOU'RE *SAFE* NOW.

N-NOT *SAFE.*

I H-HAVE TOUCHED THE MADNESS...S-SEEN ITS *TRUE* FACE.

ON THE ASTRAL PLANE? WHAT DID YOU SEE? HOW DO WE *STOP* IT?

THE MADNESS IS *N-NOT* A WEAPONIZED MEME, GEENA DRAKE.

IT IS CONTAMINATION LEAKING FROM A MASSIVE BUT *SUPPRESSED* PSIONIC SOURCE.

OH, GOD DOOM HELP US *ALL.*

HE DOESN'T EVEN *KNOW...*

I WILL *RID* YOU OF THE PAIN, MAR-VELL!

I WILL TAKE THE MADNESS *FROM* YOU!

AAAAIIIGGGHHHH!

I HAVE PURGED HIM.

HE IS FREE OF THE MADNESS. HE--

--OH.

NHHHUHH!

I *SEE.*

NOW I SEE IT *ALL.*

MICHAEL? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SIR?

OH, VANCE.

SIMON.

AS I TOOK IT FROM HIM, I *SAW* IT.

I SAW THE MADNESS FOR WHAT IT WAS...

FOR PITY'S SAKE, MICHAEL. TALK TO US...

IT WAS *ME.*

NEXT: THE WRATH OF GOD DOOM!

ZONE